

fighting with her insurance company. Two days of recovery time in the hospital should not be negotiable. Just 2 days. And ultimately that decision should be up to the patient and her doctor.

We should pass into law the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act to ensure that women do not have to fight for their recovery time in the hospital.

LONE STAR VOICES—TIM AND SUSAN JACOB

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, illegal entry into our homeland negatively affects our economic security. Illegals are driving up the costs for health care, education, Social Security and other Social Services. Americans pick up the tab for these bills because illegals do not pay their way.

Tim and Susan Jacob of Groves, Texas speak out on this fact. They say, "It should be evident more than ever that the U.S. does not have the infrastructure for 12 to 20 million illegals. This summer we are seeing rolling blackouts, complete power outages, gasoline above \$3 a gallon, Houston streets are overloaded with automobiles and illegals driving without insurance. We have hospital closings and poor performance of the public school system. Shut down the borders, enforce the existing laws and prosecute employers who hire illegals."

Mr. Speaker, common sense rings true again. We cannot ignore the negative impact of illegal entry. It is morally wrong to make Americans pay the costs for foreigners illegally in our Nation.

And that's just the way it is.

RIISING GAS PRICES HURT MINIMUM WAGE EARNERS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, gas prices in this country have just risen to hit yet another record high, reminding us all of how difficult it can be to make ends meet today. This is especially true for the millions of Americans who are struggling to survive and support their families while making the minimum wage.

Although it has not been increased since 1997, and it is currently at its lowest level in 50 years when adjusted for inflation, Republicans still refuse to raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour. That means if you make \$5.15 an hour and you work all year round, you would make \$10,700. In fact, it would take you a full day just to fill up your gas tank. With the kind of money you make on minimum wage, there is very little left to support a household, something three-quarters of the people who make minimum wage must do.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats believe that no one who works hard at a full-time job should be in poverty. It is time to raise the minimum wage. Congress should not go on vacation without giving these workers their first pay raise in 9 years.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRIFICE OF PFC DEREK PLOWMAN

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the sacrifice made by PFC Derek Plowman of Everton, Arkansas. On July 20 he died from a gunshot wound while serving with the Arkansas Army National Guard's 142nd Fires Brigade in Iraq.

Friends and family say that Derek was passionate about everything that he did. He was known to be a selfless man that was always more worried about other people than himself.

Last year he had just returned from basic training when he learned that his unit was being mobilized, but he commented that "he had a job to do," and willingly deployed to Iraq with his fellow Arkansans.

Derek comes from a large family with nine brothers and sisters. He had dreams of becoming a psychiatrist, and joined the National Guard during his senior year at Valley Springs High School to earn money for college.

Mr. Speaker, at the young age of 20, Derek made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He is a true American hero. I ask my colleagues to keep Derek's family in their thoughts and prayers as they mourn the loss of this outstanding young man.

OIL COMPANY PROFITS

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, Mr. Speaker, the numbers are in. ExxonMobil's quarterly profits up 32 percent, Shell, 34 percent, BP, 29 percent. The three largest oil companies made \$200 million a day profit by gouging consumers. This is extraordinary, and the Republicans have very little to say about this because they are sharing in the profits. Eighty-five percent of the political contributions from oil and gas companies go to the Republican party.

Now, they are so awash in money that the retired CEO of ExxonMobil, while Americans struggle to fill up their gas tanks and afford that and go on vacation, well, Lee Raymond, the retired ExxonMobil chief who got \$400 million for a retirement gift very recently, he is personally buying oil and gas fields. So American workers, people who work for ExxonMobil, can't afford to go on vacation and fill up their tank, and their CEO is personally purchasing oil and gas fields in the Middle East and Africa. It's a great country.

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BREAST CANCER PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise, along with several of my colleagues, this morning to urge this House to pass a bill I am sponsoring called the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act. I appreciate the co-leadership of the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) on this important bipartisan bill.

We are here today seeking to improve treatment coverages and access to inpatient care for women suffering from breast cancer. No woman should be forced to fight breast cancer and red tape at the same time. It is our responsibility in Congress to make sure that necessary laws are in place to protect a breast cancer patient. We need to guarantee the best treatment and support possible.

A breast cancer diagnosis is scary and stressful for a woman. Insurance restrictions and difficult cost-saving decisions only complicate her fear and stress.

By passing our bill, we can eliminate undue anxiety and ensure that a woman and her doctor are in control of her treatment decisions. More than 175 cosponsors of our bill have recognized the need to help more than 200,000 women diagnosed with breast cancer every year. But we believe every Member of this body should be cosponsoring our legislation.

Together, this Congress can make a positive difference in the lives of women suffering from breast cancer by passing the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act.

IN SUPPORT OF THE BREAST CANCER PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act and urge its passage before the August recess.

Breast cancer is so pervasive that it touches every American family. The diagnosis of breast cancer is frightening enough not to have to fight the insurance companies, as has been said before. One in eight women is going to be diagnosed with breast cancer during her lifetime, and it remains the number one cause of death in women between the ages of 30 and 54.

In my congressional district, there are almost 1,500 instances of breast cancer and nearly 300 women die every year. And rushing a woman through a hospital stay after a mastectomy and pressuring her to return to her normal life almost immediately hampers her recovery. That is why it is imperative

that we pass the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act.

We must also support research into better breast cancer detection methods. Mammographies, which is the only tool we have had for 40 years, miss too many women and cannot suffice as our gold standard. But instead of passing legislation to stop drive-through mastectomies or supporting funding increases for research and development, we have become a drive-through Congress, rushing to pass what is politically divisive.

This bill deserves passage.

IN SUPPORT OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN BOB MATHIAS

(Mr. NUNES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, some of you may know that former Congressman and two-time Olympic Gold Medalist Bob Mathias has been battling cancer for the past few years.

As many in this Chamber know, Bob is a fighter and is determined to beat it. As Bob continues his fight, I ask that we keep him and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

THE BREAST CANCER PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, breast cancer does not discriminate based on health care coverage.

Statistics tell us that one in seven American women will develop breast cancer; yet no one ever expects these things. No one plans or prepares to be diagnosed with breast cancer. No one preemptively investigates their health insurance coverage in the event that they require a mastectomy or a lumpectomy.

Suddenly these women, our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, are faced not only with a terrible, deadly diagnosis but with unnerving treatment decisions.

I am a cosponsor of the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act to ensure one thing: that women don't have to worry about their health insurance plan during this terrifying experience. This is the law in Florida, and it should be the law of the land. While serving in the Florida legislature, I passed similar legislation, and my commitment has not wavered.

This bill mandates that women be covered for a 48-hour hospital stay after a mastectomy and a 24-hour stay for a lumpectomy. What is more, it ensures full coverage for follow-up care.

Asking anyone coping with a deadly disease to lose sleep over health insurance is outrageous. As a public servant, I believe I have a responsibility to stand up on this issue so that women

facing this trying ordeal can focus on what really matters: their family, their faith, and their future.

ISRAEL/IRAN

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the United States and our ally Israel stand at an important and historic juncture.

Iran's continued efforts to establish a nuclear weapons program and their continued efforts to assist Hezbollah, an internationally recognized terrorist organization, is in defiance of their obligations to a free and stable world.

Today I stand united with my friends in Israel, who face a constant threat by Iranian-sponsored Hezbollah terrorists.

The House has acted by passing H.R. 282, the Iran Freedom Support Act. If this bill is passed, a strong set of economic sanctions will begin to hold Iran responsible for their actions in the Middle East. It is critical that the Senate act on this companion legislation that is pending before them.

Congress must confront Iran's continued belligerence by halting that country's nuclear aspirations and work to prevent their further sponsorship of terrorists.

A TRIBUTE TO ANDREW VELEZ

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, this morning I come to this House with a very heavy heart. Earlier this week, PFC Andrew Velez was killed while tracking Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan.

It is always a tragedy when we lose one of our young soldiers, but this loss is especially tragic because less than 2 years ago, Andrew's older brother, Freddy, was also killed while protecting this country in fighting the war on terrorism.

The Velez family now has made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and democracy not once, but twice. Andrew and Freddy Velez are American heroes. We must never forget the sacrifice of these two brothers for freedom.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Andrew's father, Roy; his stepmother, Carmen; Andrew's wife, Veronica; and his three children, Jasmine, Jordan, and Jacob as they mourn the loss of their son and their husband and their dad.

Mr. Speaker, the price of freedom has never been cheap, but I have to say that the Velez family has given an extra measure for freedom and democracy. I hold them in my prayers and ask all Americans to do so at the same time.

SECURITY FIRST

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we secure our southern border immediately. One overlooked reason is the Department of Homeland Security has issued data which indicates that each year, hundreds of aliens from countries known to harbor terrorists or who promote terrorism are apprehended attempting to enter this country illegally. Since 2002, the number of non-Mexicans apprehended while trying to enter the United States illegally has increased 343 percent.

This is of great concern to me and to others. In the words of former Deputy Secretary ADM James Loy of Homeland Security: "Entrenched human smuggling and corruption in areas beyond our borders can be exploited by terrorist organizations."

There have been reports, Mr. Speaker, that terrorist organizations, including al Qaeda, have been operating, recruiting members, and maybe training terrorists in South American countries, including Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. This is particularly alarming when you consider that attempts to enter our country illegally from Brazil has increased 900 percent over the last 3 years.

It is imperative that we secure our borders now.

THE VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, casualties are mounting on all sides in the Middle East, and yet our government, representing the most powerful Nation in the world, stands aside and watches as civilian casualties mount everywhere.

Why in God's name aren't we getting involved to call for an end to the violence, to bring the parties together so that they can find a way to create peace?

We are required, by virtue of our standing in the world, to bring people together. Not to create more isolation, not to create more war, but to bring people together. We must get involved as this continues to spiral out of control. The whole world is watching and the entire world is at risk.

THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY'S SECURITY AGENDA

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this Republican majority is dedicated to the security agenda. We have created a plan of action for leading that addresses the issues facing America today.